DEBT POSITION.

16. A statement of assets and liabilities is furnished on pages 12 and 13 of the Budget Estimates. It will be seen therefrom that our liabilities at the close of 1120 including the balances at the credit of some of the Funds such as the General Reserve Fund, the Revenue Reserve Fund and the Post War Reconstruction Fund, which are not repayable at call will aggregate Rs. 17·17 crores. Against this liability our assets including the outlay on our productive schemes amount to Rs. 17·56 crores, which is Rs. 39 lakhs in excess of the liabilities. It may however be mentioned that the above assets do not include the out-lay on the Kodayar Project Scheme and on non-productive capital schemes. If these are also taken into account the total assets would exceed the liabilities by more than Rs. 2·84 crores. Our debt position may therefore be considered as satisfactory.

WAYS AND MEANS.

17. The final accounts of 1118 have resulted in a cash balance of Rs. 114·57 lakhs. Including the receipt of Rs. 35·63 lakhs from short-term deposits in Banks and the loan amount of Rs. 205·36 lakhs, the transactions during the current year under Revenue, Capital and Debt heads will result in a net receipt of Rs. 89·88 lakhs The year is therefore expected to close with a cash balance of Rs. 204·45 lakhs. The several transactions during the next year are estimated to result in a net withdrawal of Rs. 22·83 lakhs, thus reducing the balance to Rs. 181·62 lakhs. As such a large balance may not be necessary to carry on the day to day transactions of Government, including the food Grains Purchase programme, it is proposed to invest Rs 50 lakhs in short term deposits in Banks. We will thus have at the end of the next year a cash balance of Rs. 131·62 lakhs and Short term deposits in Banks to the extent of Rs. 50 lakhs besides other safe and fluid investments in gilt-edged securities and gold *aggregating Rs. 190 lakhs.* The cash position will therefore be as strong as ever.

THE PAST DECADE—A RETROSPECT.

18. Before concluding, I seek your indulgence, Sir, for a few minutes more, so that I may present to the House a brief survey of the financial progress of the State during the past decade.

Due to the general and special remissions of land tax sanctioned by Government, the revenue for 1110 was only Rs. 227 lakhs. Since then, it began to rise steadily and exceeded the 2½ crore mark in 1112 as a result of the special receipt on account of the refund by the British Government of the duty on Jaffna Tobacco pooled for division in the apportionment of the Cochin Harbour receipts in previous years. During the succeeding three years, our revenues were more or less keeping up this level. In 1116 the revenue exceeded Rs. 2¾ crores mainly on account of the adjustment in that year's accounts of the receipts from the Cochin Harbour Scheme for two years. From 1117 onwards there has been a steady increase from Rs. 314 lakhs in 1117

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